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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Thirty-sixth session
Vienna, 22-26 February 1999

PROVISIONAL AGENDA*

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chairman.
3. Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) by the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III.
4. Space debris.
5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system.
6. Other matters:
   (a) Schedule of work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session, in 2000;
   (b) Other reports.
7. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

*Items 3-5 should be given priority in accordance with para. 13 of General Assembly resolution 53/45 of 3 December 1998.

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ANNOTATIONS

Item 2. Statement by the Chairman

Following the adoption of the agenda by the Subcommittee, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Subcommittee that have taken place since its thirty-fifth session. After the Chairman's statement, the Subcommittee will organize a schedule of work. (The indicative schedule of work, which will be followed with flexibility, is contained in the annex to the present annotated provisional agenda.)

Item 3. Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) by the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III

In paragraph 18 of its resolution 53/45 of 3 December 1998, the General Assembly agreed that the Advisory Committee should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole at its 1999 session to finalize its preparatory work.[1]

The Advisory Committee will have before it the following documents:

(a) A revised draft report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), which also contains the text of "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development" as revised by the Preparatory Committee at its session in 1998, and the text of the executive summary as revised by the executive secretariat on the basis of comments received from Member States at the 1998 session of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.184/PC/1);

(b) A report on organizational matters relating to the holding of UNISPACE III, prepared by the executive secretariat in response to a request by the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.184/PC/L.4);

(c) A compilation of recommendations made by the regional preparatory conferences for Asia and the Pacific, for Latin America and the Caribbean and for Africa and the Middle East (A/CONF.184/PC/L.5);

(d) A document containing recommendations made by the regional preparatory conference for Eastern Europe (A/CONF.184/PC/L.5/Add.1);

(e) The reports of the above regional conferences (A/CONF.184/PC/2-5);

(f) A document containing relevant inputs from other sources for consideration by the Advisory Committee (A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.9);

(g) A list of specific actions proposed in the draft report (A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.10). The text of the provisional rules of procedure for the UNISPACE III Conference is contained in the annex to the report of the Committee on its forty-first session.[2]

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[1] In view of the large number of issues to be considered by the Working Group of the Whole, in particular the preparation of the draft report of the Conference and the organizational matters upon which the Advisory Committee should take action, consideration should be given to organizing the work of the Working Group of the Whole as follows: The Working Group should take up the organizational matters at its first meeting and hear general views by delegations. An informal drafting group could then be convened to discuss and finalize all outstanding aspects of the organizational matters while the Working Group continues to examine and comment on the draft report of UNISPACE III. At a later stage, the Working Group could then hear the results of the discussions of the informal drafting group on organizational matters before finalizing its report to the Advisory Committee.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/53/20).

Item 4. Space debris

In paragraph 31 of its resolution 53/45, the General Assembly considered that it was essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources, with space debris and other aspects of space debris, and called for the continuation of national research on that question. The Subcommittee will have before it a document (A/AC.105/708) containing contributions on that subject received by the Secretariat from Member States. Any additional contributions received by the Secretariat after the preparation of the present annotated provisional agenda will be brought to the attention of the Subcommittee.

The General Assembly, in paragraph 11 of the resolution, noted with satisfaction that the Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session had concentrated on the topic of space debris mitigation measures, on the basis of the multi-year work plan adopted by it at its thirty-second session (A/AC.105/605, para. 83). In paragraph 12 of the resolution, the Assembly noted that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-sixth session, would concentrate on finalizing the full technical report on space debris for adoption. The Subcommittee will have before it a document containing the text of the full technical report on space debris (A/AC.105/707), which has been considered and edited by relevant organizations, such as the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and the International Academy of Astronautics, in accordance with the agreement of the Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, para. 95).

Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

The views of the Subcommittee regarding the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for the period 1997-1999 are set out in the report on the work of its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, paras. 21-32). The views of the Committee on the part of the report of the Subcommittee concerning this item are reflected in paragraphs 48-67 of the report of the Committee on its forty-first session.[2] The General Assembly, in paragraph 19 of resolution 53/45, endorsed the Programme for 1999 as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/693 and Corr.1, sect. I). The Subcommittee will have before it the report of the Expert covering the implementation of the Programme during 1998 and 1999 (A/AC.105/715). In his report, the Expert notes that the activities of the Programme for 2000 will be predicated on the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The report also highlights arrangements made by the Secretariat with other organs, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and the European Space Agency with respect to the activities of the Programme. The report of the Expert will also provide the Subcommittee with an update on the regional centres for space science and technology education and on the regional conferences held in preparation for UNISPACE III.

In addition, the Subcommittee will have before it the following reports on training courses, symposia and workshops held in 1998 under the auspices of the Programme:

(a) Report of the Second United Nations International Workshop on Spin-off Benefits of Space Technology: Challenges and Opportunities, held at Tampa, United States of America, from 30 March to 3 April 1998 (A/AC.105/706);

(b) Report of the Eighth United Nations International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, held in Stockholm and Kiruna, Sweden, from 4 May to 12 June 1998 (A/AC.105/704);

(c) Report of the United Nations/European Space Agency Symposium on Economic Benefits of Using Space Technology Applications in Developing Countries, held in Graz, Austria, from 7 to 10 September 1998 (A/AC.105/712);

(d) Report of the United Nations Workshop on Space Technology for Emergency Aid/Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking System for Ships in Distress, held in Maspalomas, Spain, on 24 and 25 September 1998 (A/AC.105/713);

(e) Report of the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Expanding the User Community of Space Technology Applications in Developing Countries, held in Melbourne, Australia, from 24 to 27 September 1998 (A/AC.105/714);

(f) Report of the Workshop on the Evaluation of the United Nations/Sweden International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, held in Gaborone from 18 to 21 October 1998 (A/AC.105/709);

(g) *Seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications: Selected Papers on Remote Sensing, Space Science and Information Technology, 1999* (A/AC.105/711).

Item 6. Other matters

(a) Schedule of work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session, in 2000

In paragraph 14 of its resolution 53/45, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that in view of the abbreviated schedule of work of the Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session and the preparatory work to be conducted for UNISPACE III, the Subcommittee should suspend, as an exception, its consideration of the following items for one year, to be resumed at its thirty-seventh session:

(a) General exchange of views;

(b) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including, *inter alia*, applications for developing countries;

(c) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

(d) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;

(e) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, *inter alia*, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;

(f) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine;

(g) Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth's environment, in particular progress in the International Geosphere-Biosphere (Global Change) Programme;

(h) Matters relating to planetary exploration;

(i) Matters relating to astronomy;

(j) The theme fixed for special attention of the Subcommittee: the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the session of the Subcommittee, to complement discussions within the Subcommittee on the special theme.

With regard to item (j) above, in paragraph 15 of resolution 53/45 the Assembly noted that the theme for the special attention of the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session would be identified by the Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session.

(b) Other reports

The Subcommittee will also have before it a document entitled *Highlights in Space: Progress in Space Science, Technology and Applications, International Cooperation and Space Law, 1998*—reports submitted by the Committee on Space Research, the International Astronautical Federation and the International Institute of Space Law and published as an integrated document (A/AC.105/710).

Additional reports may be submitted to the Subcommittee.

Annex

INDICATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK[a]

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Monday, 22 February 1999	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Statement by the Chairman Item 3. UNISPACE III[b]	Item 4. Space debris Item 3. UNISPACE III
Tuesday, 23 February 1999	Item 4. Space debris Item 3. UNISPACE III	Item 4. Space debris Item 3. UNISPACE III
Wednesday, 24 February 1999	Item 4. Space debris Item 3. UNISPACE III	Item 4. Space debris Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 3. UNISPACE III
Thursday, 25 February 1999	Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 3. UNISPACE III	Item 3. UNISPACE III (adoption by the Advisory Committee of the report of the Working Group of the Whole) Item 6. Other matters Item 7. Report to the Committee
Friday, 26 February 1999	Item 7. Report to the Committee	Item 7. Report to the Committee

[a]At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that Member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/50/20), paras. 168 and 169 (b)). The Committee also agreed, at its forty-first session, to schedule the thirty-sixth session of the Subcommittee, in 1999, for five days and, in view of the agenda of the Subcommittee for its thirty-sixth session as well as its role as Advisory Committee for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), further agreed that the session could be extended up to three additional days, if necessary, in order to complete the work of the Subcommittee and the Advisory Committee (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/53/20), para. 179).

[b]In accordance with para. 29 of General Assembly resolution 51/123 of 13 December 1996, the Subcommittee will act as Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III. In accordance with para. 18 of Assembly resolution 53/45, the Working Group of the Whole will be reconvened, starting on 22 February, to assist the Advisory Committee in finalizing its preparatory work, as requested by the Assembly in paragraph 21 of that resolution, and will meet during the time allocated for item 3. The Subcommittee, acting as Advisory Committee, will take up agenda item 3 again on 25 February, with a view to adopting the report of the Working Group of the Whole.